

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-11 AGR-20 CIEP-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01

SSC-01 /148 W

----- 074475

R 281338Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3010

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 2673

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ETRD EGEN PGOV PINT US UG

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR RAMTHAN GIVEN CABINET POST; OTHER
APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. UGANDA'S AMBASSADOR TO U.S., MUSTAFA RAMATHAN, HAS BEEN NAMED MINISTER OF CO-OPERATIVES AND MARKETING. MINFIN PERMANENT SECRETARY KABANDA HAS BEEN NAMED DIRECTOR OF PLANNING IN OFFICE OF PRESIDENT. NATIONAL PARKS DIRECTOR SSEMWEZI WAS AT SAME NAMED MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NEW TOURIST CORPORATION. MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE BYAGAGAIRE IS APPOINTED, IN ADDITION, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN OFFICE OF PRESIDENT. HIS RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE EAC, OAU, AND UN. ACTING MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE DRANIMVA WAS ASSIGNED TO UNNAMED OTHER DUTIES. ACTING SECRETARY OF OFFICE OF PRESIDENT, NSHEKANABO, HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AS PERMANENT SECRETARY IN SAME OFFICE. ALL APPOINTMENTS ARE EFFECTIVE AUGUST 27.

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2. AT INSTALLATION MEETING AMIN URGED RAMATHAN TO FOSTER WORK IN CO-OPERATIVES AND TO WORK CLOSELY WITH MINISTER OF PROVINCIAL

ADMINISTRATION. ADVISED HIM TO BEAR IN MIND THAT EXPORTS TO U.S., EUROPE, ASIA, AND ARAB WORLD ARE INCREASING. GENERAL REVEALED THAT TANZANIAN FONMIN MALECELA INFORMED UGANDA THAT TANZANIA IS PREPARED TO SELL UGANDA 150,000 TONS OF SALT. (SALT IS IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY HERE).

3. MINISTRY OF PLANNING WILL BE IN OFFICE OF PRESIDENT TO ASSURE THAT ORDERS TO OTHER MINISTRIES ARE CARRIED OUT, GENERAL DECLARED. DIRECTOR OF PLANNING WILL "CHECK" OTHER MINISTRIES AND REPORT TO PRESIDENT. AMIN ATTACHED HIGH PRIORITY TO PLANNING AND SAID KABANDA WILL MOVE FROM ENTEBBE TO KAMPALA TO WORK HAND IN HAND WITH PRESIDENT. HE EXPRESSED COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN KABANDA WHO, AMIN SAID, WOULD HEAD ALL ECONOMIC PLANNING DEPARTMENTS.

4. TOURIST CORPORATION WILL BE UNDER MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED) BUT MANAGING DIRECTOR WILL BE INDEPENDENT AND RUN ADMINISTRATION OF THE CORPORATION WITHOUT INTERFERENCE. PRESIDENT WARNED MANAGING DIRECTOR SSEMWEZI NOT TO ALLOW THOSE WHO ASSOCIATE WITH EUROPEANS TO JOIN CORPORATION AND TO CHECK EVERYONE PHYSICALLY. ON TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES PRESIDENT AUTHORIZED MANAGING DIRECTOR TO HIRE A FEW CARS FOR TRANSPORTING TOURISTS. HE ADVISED CORPORATION DIRECTOR TO WORK CLOSELY WITH DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND TOLD HIM TO BUILD HOTELS WITH LOCAL MATERIALS AND WITH AN AFRICAN LOOK. MANAGING DIRECTOR WILL SHORTLY GO OVERSEAS PROMOTION TOUR BUT AMIN EMPHASIZED ONLY FRIENDLY PEOPLE SHOULD COME TO UGANDA. HE SAID UGANDA DID NOT WANT "HIPPIES OR ROBBER" BUT ONLY DISCIPLINED PEOPLE WHO WILL SPEND FOREIGN CURRENCY IN UGANDA.

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5. COMMENT: ABOVE MEANS, OF COURSE, THAT RAMATHAN WILL NOT BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON, AND IT IS DOUBTFUL HE WILL BE REPLACED SO LONG AS NO U.S. AMBASSADOR IS NAMED TO UGANDA, IN PATTERN THAT GOU HAS FOLLOWED WITH REGARD UK. BYAGAGAIRE'S APPOINTMENT WOULD INDICATE A DOWNGRADING OF ACTING FONMIN PAUL ETIANG WHO, IT APPEARS, HAS AROUSED AMIN'S ANGER FOR SEVERAL REASONS RECENTLY (MAINLY OTTAWA). IN RECENT MONTHS AMIN HAS USED BYAGAGAIRE FOR SEVERAL DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENTS IN PLACE OF ETIANG. BYAGAGAIRE IS CONSIDER-
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ED AMONG DIPLOMATIC CORPS AN "AMIN STOOGE." OUR GUESS WOULD BE THAT BYAGAGAIRE WILL BEGIN TO ACT AS AMIN'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOUTHPIECE AND SPECIAL ENVOY WHILE ETIANG IS LEFT TO MANAGE ROUTINE AFFAIRS OF FONMIN. IT WOULD SEEM THAT KABANDA IS BEING GIVEN A BIG JOB, AS A SORT OF ECONOMIC CZAR, WITH MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DETERMINING ECONOMIC POLICIES AND SEEING THAT RELEVANT MINISTRIES IMPLEMENT THEM. DOUBT HE IS UP TO THE JOB, BUT IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE THAT AMIN HAS COME AROUND TO THE IDEA THAT HE NEEDS SOMEONE TO TRY TO MANAGE THE ECONOMY, SINCE HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE SUBJECT HIMSELF DESPITE HIS INVENTION OF THE

"ECONOMIN WAR." DRANIMVA APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN EASED OUT, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN, WHILE NSHEKANABO, LIKE MANY BEFORE HIM, HAS BEEN ELEVATED TO KEY POSITION IN AMIN'S IMMEDIATE ENTOURAGE.
KEELEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KAMPAL02673
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS KEELEY
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KAMPALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730811/aaaaahzd.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11-Jan-2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <01-Feb-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR RAMTHAN GIVEN CABINET POST; OTHER APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED
TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EGEN, PGOV, PINT, US, UG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005